

## **LA-CW-1 Coastwide Nutria Control Program**

### **Coast 2050 Strategy Coastwide – Coastwide Herbivory Control**

#### **Project Location**

This project is coastwide covering all basins and coastal parishes.

#### **Problem**

Fur trapping activity has been drastically declining for over ten years because of weak market demand and low prices. In Louisiana, this has resulted in an overpopulation of nutria and serious damage to coastal wetlands from nutria herbivory. Annual aerial surveys for 1993-2001 have indicated that approximately 100,000 acres have been impacted coastwide.

#### **Goals**

The objective of this project is to significantly reduce the damage to coastal wetlands resulting from nutria herbivory.

#### **Proposed Solution**

The proposed solution is to annually harvest 400,000 nutria.

#### **Project Benefits**

The project will protect 14,963 acres of emergent marsh over the course of the 20-year project life.

#### **Project Costs**

The total fully funded cost is \$76,924,100 and the fully funded first cost is \$2,890,100.

#### **Risk/Uncertainty and Longevity/Sustainability**

There is a low degree of risk associated with this project because the predicted population with project is below that where extensive damage was not determined. The project should continue providing benefits beyond 20 years after construction because a lag time will exist before populations rebound.

#### **Sponsoring Agency and Contact Person**

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service

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